

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 804

S E C R E T SEOUL 4455

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, KS

SUBJECT: KOREAN POLICY

1. IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT INTER-AGENCY STUDY ON KOREA POLICY, WHICH WE RECOMMENDED PREVIOUSLY, IS NOW UNDER WAY. I WOULD URGE THAT THIS STUDY ENCOMPASS NOT ONLY THE CURRENT POLICY ISSUES WE FACE, BUT ALSO A THOROUGH REVIEW OF THE UNDERLINING CORE RELATIONSHIP WE SEEK WITH THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA OVER THE NEXT DECADE, THAT IT BE BASED ON A REALISTIC PRECEPTION OF THE CURRENT KOREAN SCENE, AND THAT IT LOOK FORWARD TO KOREA'S EVOLUTION OVER THE NEXT DECADE.

2. IN AN EFFORT TO CONTRIBUTE TO A KOREA POLICY STUDY ALONG THESE LINES, THE EMBASSY HAS PREPARED THREE PAPERS WHICH WE WILL BE FORWARDING SEPARATELY BY TELEGRAM JUNE 20 AND 23, WITH APOLOGIES FOR THEIR LENGTH:

(A) THE EMBASSY HAS REVIEWED OUR BASIC ASSUMPTIONS AND PRECONCEPTIONS REGARDING KOREA TO ACHIEVE A GREATER SENSE OF ASSURANCE THAT WE WILL NOT BE CAUGHT SHORT BY UNEXPECTED DEVELOPMENTS AND THAT WE ARE NOT DELUDING OURSELVES BY JUDGMENTS MADE SOME YEARS AGO WHICH ARE NO LONGER VALID.

(B) A BRIEF PAPER, SUMMARIZING THE DYNAMIC AND
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EVOLVING NATURE OF THE KOREAN SCENE AND A FEW BROAD

PROJECTIONS, BASED ON OUR CONCLUSION THAT KOREA IS IN
TRANSITION FROM A CLIENT STATE TO MIDDLE POWER STATUS.

(C) THE EMBASSY'S VIEWS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON OUR
CORE OF RELATIONSHIP WITH KOREA, POINTING UP INADEQUACIES
IN OUR POLICY AND THE NEED TO DEVELOP A DURABLE RELATION
SHIP WHICH WILL STAND THE TEST OF A DECADE OR MORE.
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